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"DEATH TRAP!"

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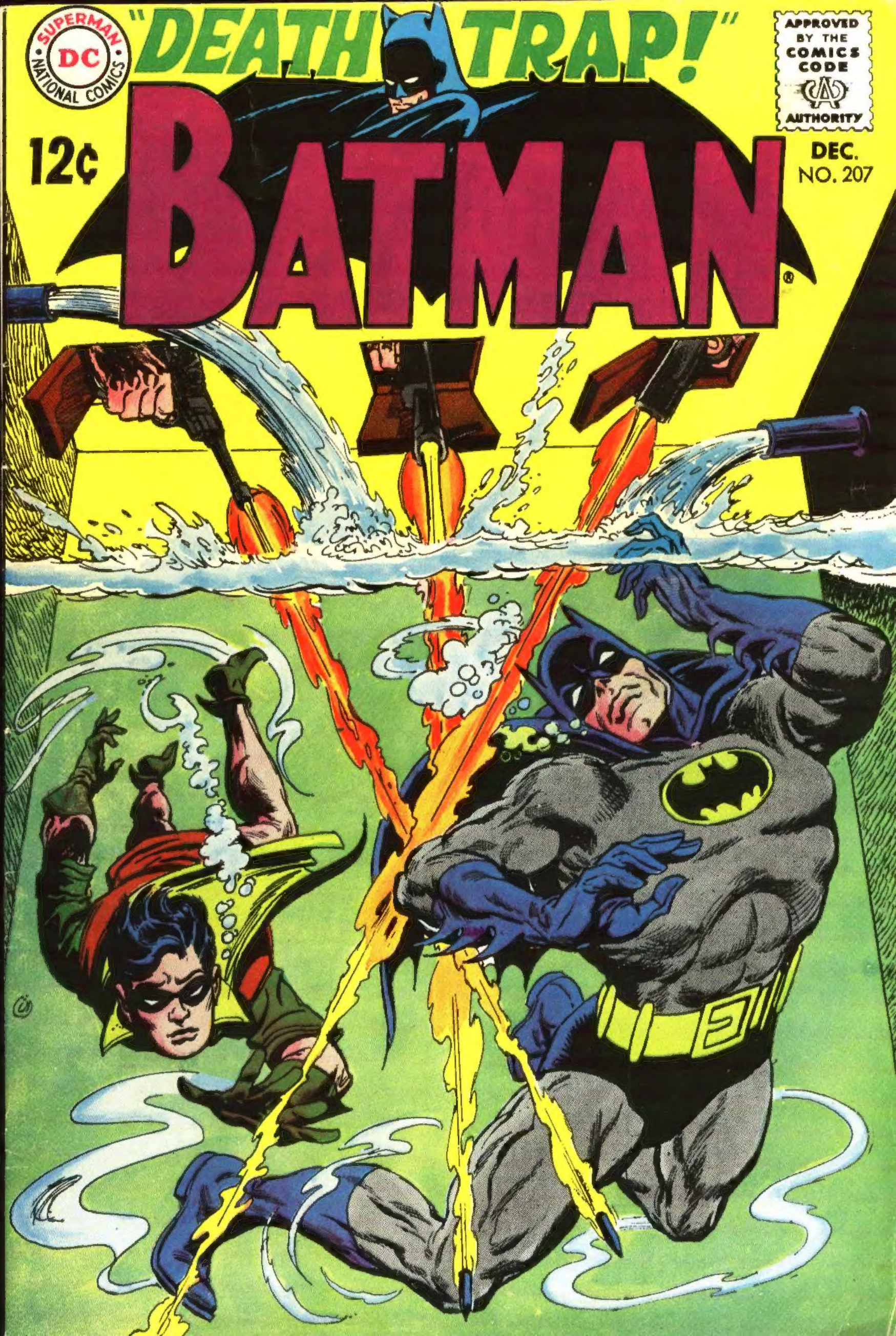
12¢

BATMAN®

DEC.
NO. 207



DUSK IN GOTHAM CITY...THE BEGINNING OF A NIGHT THAT MAY WELL BE THE LAST NIGHT SEEN BY THE INHABITANTS OF THIS GREAT METROPOLIS...

CALLING ALL CARS! CALLING ALL CARS! CONDITIONS... RED! THE MAD BOMBER HAS DELIVERED A MIDNIGHT ULTIMATUM TO CITY HALL!

ALL POLICE ARE TO GIVE COMPLETE AID AND ASSISTANCE TO STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES...

PSSST! HEY... SONNY!

POLICE

...IN THEIR SEARCH FOR THE BOMB! YOU WILL BE KEPT ADVISED ON ALL DEVELOPMENTS...

HOW'D YOU LIKE A NEW BOUNCY BALL?

GEE! I--I NEVER EXPECTED YOU WOULD...

POLICE

FOR THEIR OWN PROTECTION, THE PUBLIC MUST NOT BECOME AWARE OF THIS IMPENDING PERIL!

THAT'LL SERVE HIM RIGHT! TH' LITTLE PUNK!

MUST BE SOME KINDA NUT...! AFTER TH' WAY HE...

POLICE

PANIC MUST BE AVOIDED AT ALL COSTS!

AW, WHO CARES NOW? LEAST I GOT ME A NEW BALL ALL MY OWN!

POLICE

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BATMAN AND ROBIN... RED ALERT! YOUR PRESENCE URGENTLY REQUESTED AT CITY HALL... TOP-ECHELON CONCLAVE ... ESSENTIAL YOU ATTEND!

KZOWIE! LOOKA THAT BOUNCE! MUST BE A... SUPER-BALL!

STORY BY: FRANK ROBBINS

ART BY: IRV NOVICK & JOE GIELLA

BATMAN

With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER

FACE THEIR GREATEST AND POSSIBLY LAST CHALLENGE FROM--

"The Doomsday Ball!"

AS THE DYNAMIC DUO ENTERS THE TENSE AND TROUBLED MEETING ROOM...

COMMISSIONER GORDON... CAME AS FAST AS...

MAYOR HAYES YOU KNOW! THESE GENTLEMEN, TO WHOM WE HAVE PLEDGED OUR UTMOST CO-OPERATION, ARE...

MAJOR-GENERAL HAWKINS--ARMY AIR FORCE COMMAND!

ROBERTSON... FAIRBANKS...OF THE C.I.A.!

PROF. WILLI VON GAIL...ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION!

MASTER SERGEANT OWENS OF THE ARMY-NUCLEAR-DEMOLITION TEAM!

PHEW! OUR MONITORING OF POLICE RADIO-CALLS GAVE US SOME IDEA OF THE URGENCY... BUT DIDN'T REALIZE IT WAS THIS--

...THIS SERIOUS? IT'S *MORE* THAN THAT, *ROBIN*... THIS MAY BE *DOOMSDAY* FOR *GOTHAM CITY!*

LAST WEEK ...UNKNOWN TO THE PUBLIC...

...ONE OF OUR NUCLEAR-ALERT PATROL BOMBERS... FLAMED OUT... WENT DOWN INTO THE SEA OFF GOTHAM CITY!

"SPECIAL UNDERSEAS SEARCH CREWS WENT INTO IMMEDIATE ACTION! AFTER INTENSIVE SALVAGE OPERATION... THREE OF THE ORIGINAL *FOUR H-BOMBS* WERE RECOVERED..."

THEN YOU SUGGEST, GENERAL--

THAT ONE OF THE BOMBS... IS *MISSING!*... OR-- *STOLEN!*

JA! AND EVEN MORE DISASTROUS ... ZIS VEAPON VASS A *NEW* EXPERIMENTAL... *SUPER-MINIATURIZED H-BOMB!*

HAWKINS

SMALL ENOUGH TO BE TRANSPORTED...OR CARRIED...BY ONE MAN?

UNFORTUNATELY ...JA!

BUT, GENERAL ...IF THE PUBLIC WAS UNAWARE OF THIS INCIDENT, HOW COULD ANYONE--

ONLY IF THAT "HE" WERE BRILLIANT ENOUGH TO CRACK OUR CODED RADIO-TRANSMISSIONS! AND BEAT US TO THE ACCIDENT SCENE...

AND THEN THE DELIVERY OF THIS TAPE TO THE MAYOR'S OFFICE... LISTEN!

UNLESS TEN MILLION DOLLARS IS READY FOR DELIVERY TO ME BY 11:30 TONIGHT --I WILL BLOW UP ALL OF GOTHAM CITY AT MIDNIGHT! FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS WILL FOLLOW...

WOW! SOUNDS ...FORGIVE ME, BATMAN... BATTY ENOUGH TO BE FOR REAL!

MAYBE, ROBIN... BUT IT COULD ALSO BE A MAD HOAX!

SO WE FIGURED, SIR... TILL THE MAYOR SHOWED US THIS TAG THAT CAME WITH THE TAPE!

THESE GADGETS ARE ALWAYS ATTACHED TO OUR H-STUFF... JUST IN CASE...

WARNING! STAY AWAY!! IF FOUND... NOTIFY A.E.C. OR LOCAL AIRFORCE COM. AND AT ONCE!

THEN... IT'S NO HOAX! IT'S A MILLION-TO-ONE CHANCE IN A CITY THIS SIZE THAT YOU'LL EVER FIND--

WOULDN'T IT BE WISER TO-- EVACUATE?

EIGHT MILLION PEOPLE... IN SIX HOURS? OUR BEST CIVIL-DEFENSE PLANS CALL FOR A MINIMUM OF TWENTY-FOUR HOURS! NO ...WE MUST BE PREPARED TO PAY...UNLESS--

GENTLEMEN, YOU CAN CONTINUE YOUR CITY-WIDE SEARCH FOR THE BOMB, BUT...

THERE'S ONLY ONE CHANCE TO NIP THIS IN THE BUD--FIND THE MAD BOMBER! ROBIN AND I WILL TAKE THAT CHORE...

...ALONG WITH THIS TAPE!

HOW CAN THAT TAPE HELP US FIND THAT BATTY BLACK-MAILER, BATMAN?

HE MAY NOT BE NUTTY, ROBIN ... BUT A COLD, CALCULATING CRIMINAL, WHOSE VOICE MIGHT BE RECOGNIZ-ABLE TO SOMEONE IN GOTHAM CITY!

AND AS THE BAT-MOBILE SPEEDS THEM ON THEIR IMPOSSIBLE QUEST, A FOREIGN CAR PULLS TO THE CURB...

CITY HALL

WHERE DO WE START?

AT THE LAST PLACE THE POLICE WOULD LOOK, ROBIN...

...AND A SHADOWY FIGURE HURRIES AWAY...

--THE HEAD-QUARTERS OF GOTHAM'S CRIME-SYNDICATE!

60127

MINUTES LATER...AT THE BRILL BUILDING...

PRETTY FANCY COMMAND-POST FOR GOTHAM'S WORST, BATMAN!

AND A CRYING SHAME, ROBIN! DESPITE OUR BEST EFFORTS, BIG BRILL CONTINUES TO LOOT AND VICTIMIZE THIS CITY!

AND YOU EXPECT TO GET HIS CO-OPERA-TION?

IT'S CO-OPERATE... OR PERISH! IN HIS OWN EVIL WAY... BRILL HAS A BIG STAKE IN THE SURVIVAL OF GOTHAM!

WHO Y'WANT T'SEE, HUH?

THE BIG MAN YOU'RE FRONTING FOR, SNAKE-EYES! ANNOUNCE US!

YE-AH, BOSS... I WOULDN'T BELIEVE IT EITHER --IF I DIDN'T SEE IT!

T'ROW TH' BUMS OUT!

BRILL

TELL BRILL... THANKS! WE ACCEPT... THE *INVITE!*

BOSS! THEY AIN'T TAKIN' *NO* FOR AN ANSWER...!

ELEVATOR

NOBODY GETS T'SEE *BIG BRILL* WIT'OUT AN APPOINTMENT!

SNAKE-EYES THINKS HE'S STILL RUNNING CROOKED DICE GAMES, *ROBIN!*

...SO LET'S *UNLOAD* HIS DICE! HIT HIM *HIGH*...

ZOK!

KPOW!

...AND *LOW!*

WE'LL TAKE *BRILL'S* PRIVATE *EXPRESS* ELEVATOR!

SOMEHOW... DON'T THINK HE'S GOING TO LIKE THIS INVASION OF HIS *PRIVACY!*

UP

22

21

20

DOWN

THEY CLOSED ME DOWN, BOSS! THEY'RE *COMIN'* UP *FAST!*

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

CAPTAIN ACTION® and ACTION BOY™ meet DR. EVIL™

I... I CAN'T MOVE! WHO ARE YOU?

I AM DR. EVIL! AT LAST... YOU'RE IN MY GRASP... HEH... HEH!

HA! I HAVE IONIZED YOU... NOW MY THOUGHT-SENSOR WILL CONTROL YOUR MIND!

WHO WILL SAVE CAPTAIN ACTION NOW..!!?

ACTION BOY!

MY REDUCER WILL FREEZE YOU, ACTION BOY!

MY RAY-GUN IS STRONGER!

ZAP!

THANKS, ACTION BOY!

I'M GLAD I WAS IN TIME TO FOIL DR. EVIL!

THERE'S MORE ACTION AHEAD WHEN YOU ACT OUT YOUR OWN CAPTAIN ACTION ADVENTURES!

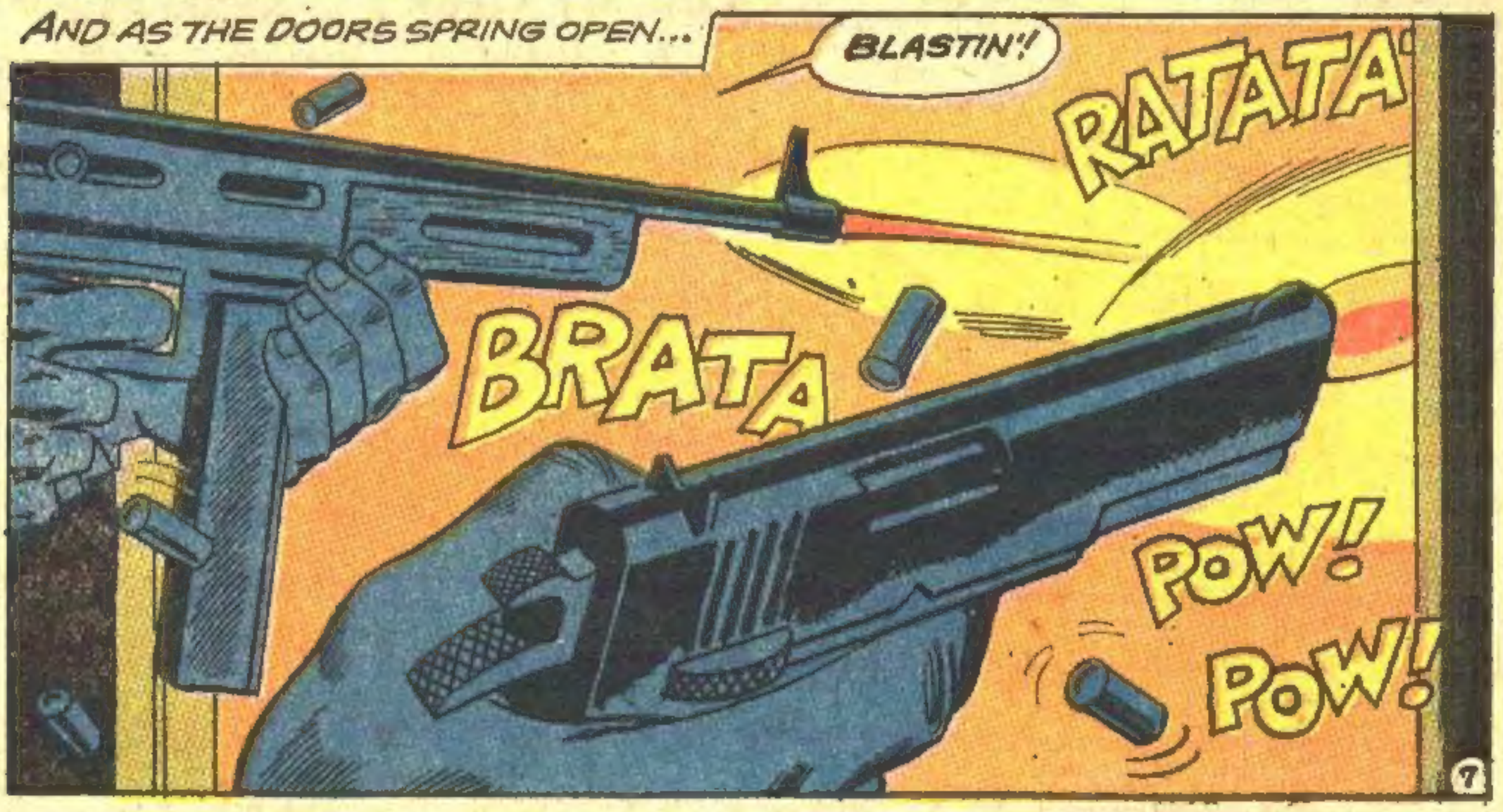
GET **DR. EVIL**...ALIEN FROM ALPHA CENTURA! HE COMES WITH DISGUISES TO HIDE HIS EVIL DEEDS...HE COMES WITH EVIL OUTFIT AND EVIL, EVIL THINGS!

ACTION BOY COMES WITH HELMET, KNIFE, RAY GUN AND PANTHER.

GET **CAPTAIN ACTION**... GET HIS CRIME-FIGHTING ACCESSORIES.

GET ALL THE ACTION WITH CAPTAIN ACTION, ACTION BOY, AND DR. EVIL! THEY'RE

IDEAL



IS THE FATE THAT BATMAN AND ROBIN HAVE MET MORE MERCIFUL THAN THAT AWAITING GOTHAM CITY? WITH BATED BREATH WE RAUSE... AND AWAIT THE ANSWER ON THE NEXT PAGE FOLLOWING!

OCTOBER, 1968

HOG

The powerful Harley-Davidson is a motorcycle with a personality—and a name—all its own. It's known as the "Hog". (Pronounced "Hawg".) It's a monster bike...even when it's customized by stripping and adding wild new parts. (Then it's known as a "Chopped Hog".) A real Chopped Hog can cost over $2,000, but Revell's new model of this colorful motorcycle costs less than $4.00. It has colored, clear and chrome parts, plus steerable and moveable wheels. And building one can be a moving experience.

For a catalog of 250 Revell models, send 25¢ to: Revell, Inc., 4316 Glencoe Avenue, Venice, California 90291.

Model of the Month
Harley-Davidson "Chopped Hog"

Revell

BURSTING IN, THE GUNMEN FIND THE CAB...

...EMPTY! HOW--

BUT BEFORE AN ANSWER CAN BE FOUND... THE ELEVATOR DOORS SLAM SHUT--THE CAB DROPS!...

HEY--! WHAT GIVES--!?

AND AS, SUDDENLY, THE CAB JOLTS TO A BONE-JARRING HALT... ONE FLIGHT LOWER...

OOOF!

...WHILE ABOVE THEM, ON TOP OF THE CAB...

LUCKY WE ANTICIPATED THIS, BATMAN--AND CLIMBED OUT THE TOP HATCH!

AND EVEN LUCKIER THE CONTROL-CABLE COUPLINGS WERE ACCESSIBLE UP HERE...SO I COULD GAIN *MANUAL* CONTROL OF THE ELEVATOR!

THREE DOWN ...AND HOW MANY MORE TO GO? GOT TO GET THROUGH TO *BRILL*...!

THAT DOORWAY...LEADING OUT TO THE PENTHOUSE ROOF-GARDEN!

BUT AS THEY PASS A BANK OF HIDDEN ELECTRIC-EYES...

THOSE DOORS--!

WE MUST'VE TRIPPED SOME... UNSEEN... ALARM BARRIER!

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

WE WANT YOU TO BABY-SIT... WITH THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST TOT...

SUPER BABY!

NO. 212 JAN.
80 GIANT SUPERMAN
DC
25¢
YES, SUPERMAN! THIS WHOLE ISSUE IS DEVOTED TO OUR ADVENTURES AS SUPERBABIES!
NO, SUPERGIRL! YOU'RE NOT SHOWING READERS MY BABY PICTURES?!
THE POLKS MEET THE BABE OF STEEL
SUPERBABY'S LIFE IN THE ORPHANAGE!
THE EARTHMAN WHO SAVED BABY KAL-EL OF KRYPTON!

JUST SIT DOWN... AND READ THIS LATEST GIANT.

EXTRA "THE GIRL SUPERBABY" STARRING SUPERGIRL!

ON SALE OCT. 15¢

AND AS THEY TRY TO STEM THE INEXORABLE DOWNWARD MOVEMENT OF THE STEEL DOORS...

WE'RE WALLED IN!

HELPLESS...! WHILE SOMEWHERE OUT THERE... A BOMB TICKS AWAY, THAT CAN DESTROY EVERYBODY!

--INCLUDING THAT FATHEAD-- BIG BRILL!... AND ALL WE WANT TO DO IS JUST TALK TO HIM!

WE MAY NEVER GET A WORD IN EDGEWISE, ROBIN...

LOOK!

THERE'S NO WAY OUT! WE'RE GONNA DROWN!

ONE SLIM... CHANCE! GOT TO WORK FAST...

INHALE ALL THE AIR YOU CAN, ROBIN... HOLD IT WHEN THE WATER TAKES OVER!

IN BRIEF INSTANTS, THEIR AIR SUPPLY IS SNUFFED OUT LIKE A CANDLE! UNDERWATER, BATMAN FEVERISHLY TAKES AN OBJECT FROM HIS UTILITY BELT...

OOOF

JUST HOPE THE WATER HASN'T "SHORTED OUT" MY MINI-LASER-TORCH!

THE POWERFUL RUBY-LASER SPUTTERS TO LIFE... JETS ITS PENCIL-THIN STREAM OF COHERENT LIGHT AGAINST THE HEAVY STEEL DOOR...

SIZZ

QUESTION OF WHICH GIVES OUT FIRST... OUR BREATH ...OR THIS BARRIER!

MOMENTS LATER...

WHOOSH!

AS THE **DYNAMIC DUO** IS JETTED OUT UNDER THE HIGH PRESSURE OF THE SUDDENLY RELEASED WATER!

THEY'RE *BREAKIN' OUT!*... *OPEN UP* ON 'EM!

BLIP!

ZIP!

KEEP GOING, *ROBIN*...RIDE 'ER ...INTO THE POOL!

VLIP!

BWEE!

THEY'RE UNDER THERE... SOMEWHERE! *SWITCH ON* THE UNDERWATER *LIGHTS!*

ONCE THEY DO THAT... WE'RE *SITTING DUCKS!*

...UNLESS WE TURN "*DUCKS*" INTO "*DECOYS*"! GOT AN IDEA--

ZING!

PLIP!

VLIP!

BUT FIRST...WE NEED A SMOKE-SCREEN!

I'LL SIGNAL ROBIN TO TAKE SOME OF THESE SMOKE CAPSULES! THEN--

WHEN THE POOL LIGHTS GO ON...

W-WHAT? FOG...

...IN A POOL?

SUDDENLY, FROM OUT OF THE MIST... A COUNTER-ATTACK WITH BEACHBALLS...

WHERE... ARE THEY? BLAST 'EM!

ZOK!

KPOW!

WHILE UNDER THE COVERING SMOKESCREEN...

THESE BABIES GO LIKE JET-PROPELLED WHEN YOU RELEASE THE AIR VALVE!

PFFT!

SSSH!

AND WE'D BETTER GO LIKEWISE IF WE'RE GONNA WIN THIS GAME OF WATER-POLO!

FOLLOWING UP HIS BEACHBALL BARRAGE, THE CAPED CRUSADER LEAPS UP FOR A TWO-HANDED CATCH...

WHILE ROBIN DOES A REVERSE HALF-GAINER... FROM UNDER THE BOARD...

YA-AHK!

SPLURCH!

POW!

ZUNG!

LAST ONE IN THE POOL... IS A DIRTY FINK!

KLOK!

GOT TO GIVE YOUR PALS POOL-ROOM! WHICH IS WHERE I LAST SAW MOST OF YOU!

WASTED ENOUGH TIME ...AND TIME IS WHAT WE'VE PRECIOUS LITTLE OF!

GOT TO SEE **BRILL**...NO MATTER HOW INTERVIEW-SHY HE IS!

MOMENTS LATER, AS THE **GOTHAM GANG-BUSTERS** BREAK INTO THE INNER SANCTUM...

BATMAN... AND **ROBIN**?! HOW IN BLAZES DID YOU...

WE JUST TOOK OUT SOME MINOR INTER-FERENCE!

ROBIN! DON'T REACH FOR THAT GUN...

Y-YOU'RE RIGHT... I DON'T NEED IT! YOU'VE GOT NOTHIN' ON **ME**...

I'M **CLEAN**! WHAT DO YOU WANT HERE?

AN *I. D.* ON THE VOICE BEHIND THIS TAPE, **BRILL**! YOU MAY BE OUR ONLY HOPE TO SAVE **GOTHAM CITY**!

ME...? **SAVE**...HAW! **GOTHAM**? THAT'S A TWIST ALL RIGHT...

BUT THE "*TWIST*" THAT MAY **DESTROY** IT-- IS ON THIS TAPE!

I DON'T DIG...BUT BE MY GUEST FOR A PLAY-BACK!

...I WILL **BLOW** UP ALL OF GOTHAM **CITY AT MIDNIGHT**! FURTHER INSTRUC--

TEN MILLION RANSOM ...MAKES **ME** LOOK LIKE A **TIN-HORN CHISELER**! WHO IS THIS SPORT, ANYWAY?

THAT'S WHAT WE HOPED **YOU'D** KNOW!

NEVER HEARD THE CREEP'S VOICE! AND IT'S NONE OF MY BOYS! BUT THEY COVER THE CITY! MAY-BE ONE OF THEM MIGHT...

ALSO WHAT I HOPED YOU'D SAY! CAN YOU GET YOUR *DISTRICT-CAPTAINS* HERE *FAST?*

A SHORT TIME LATER... AS THE DEVASTATING DEADLINE DRAWS CLOSER...

NOW GET THIS-- ***BAT-MAN*** AND ***ROBIN*** GOT A PROPOSITION TO MAKE--

THEY GONNA TURN THE TERRITORY OVER TO US?

WE'LL LISTEN IF THEY GET OUTA TOWN!

IF YOU DON'T LISTEN, YOU'LL ***ALL*** LEAVE TOWN--ALONG WITH THE TOWN!

AND AS BATMAN PLAYS BACK THE TELL-TALE VOICE...

DON'T RING NO BELLS WITH ME!

ME NEITHER!

WAIT!

YOU KNOW THE LUG, ***ONE-EAR?*** BUT YOU DON'T HEAR SO ***GOOD!***

NAW... I DON'T KNOW HIM! BUT I HEARD SOME-THIN' ***ELSE!***

TURN IT UP REAL ***LOUD, BATMAN!***

...***BLOW UP...*** (***TWEE-TWEE-TWA...*** HEY, ***SKINNAY!*** FLIP THE BALL TO ME... ***TWEE-TWEE-TWA...***) ALL OF ***GOTHAM CITY...***

THAT'S ***IT!!***

YA MEAN THAT KID YELLIN' ***"SKINNAY"?***

NAW... THAT ***"TWEE-TWEE-TWA"...*** IT'S TH' ***PEANUT-WHISTLE*** FROM THE PEDDLER IN ***MY*** TURF!

THEN... THE BACKGROUND NOISE PROVES THE TAPE WAS ***RECORDED*** IN ***ONE-EAR'S*** NEIGHBOR-HOOD! IT'S AN AWFUL SLIM LEAD, BUT I'LL GRAB AT STRAWS WHEN ***GOTHAM'S*** DROWNING!

A MAD RACE AGAINST THE CLOCK BRINGS **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** TO **ONE-EAR'S** RUN-DOWN BAILIWICK...

WHO... IN A NEIGHBOR-HOOD SO POOR COULD *AFFORD* A TAPE-RECORDER? IT'S A WONDER THEY CAN BUY BALLS FOR THEIR KIDS...

AND WE CAN'T EVEN QUESTION *THEM*... WITHOUT A *DESCRIPTION!* WHICH WE HAVEN'T GOT ...YET! MUST BE *ANOTHER* WAY TO TACKLE THIS...

TV RENTALS CHEAP

HEY, *SKINNAY*... PLAY YER ONE-WALL?

PARDON ME, SIR... I KNOW IT'S NOT LIKELY, BUT... HAVE YOU DONE ANY TAPE-RECORDER REPAIRS LATELY?

ON A FAR-OUT HUNCH, THE *CAPED CRUSADER* ENTERS A *TV* REPAIR SHOP...

THREE YEARS NIGHTS I STUDY... RADAR-COMPUTER REPAIR... SPACE ELECTRONICS... MICROWAVE TRANSMISSION... AND I GET STUCK IN THIS HOLE! *TV* TRANSISTORS, KIDDIE RECORD-PLAYERS...

...'BUT LAST WEEK... *AH!* THIS LOCAL TRANSIENT... *BERTRAM SMITH*... BOARDS OVER AT MRS. CONWAY'S ... BRINGS IN--

...AN HONEST-TO GOODNESS-LIVE... *TAPE-MACHINE!* IT WAS DAMAGED BY SOME KID'S BALL...

TILLIE CONWAY'S PLACE! WE ONCE CHECKED OUT A MUG-GING THERE, *ROBIN!*

MOMENTS LATER...

APARTMENT 2-B YOU SAY, MRS. CONWAY?

YES, SIR! BUT HE'S SUCH A QUIET, POLITE, GENTLE-MAN!

LOOK...THAT SMASHED PANE--

THAT EXPLAINS WHAT THE TV REPAIR MAN SAID... SOME KID MUST'VE BATTED A BALL THROUGH MR. SMITH'S WINDOW!

AND BANGED UP HIS RECORDER! MUST'VE MADE HIM MAD AS A HORNET...

...WHICH IS A GOOD TRICK FOR A "MAD BOMBER"!

WE'VE HIT A REAL "DEAD END" ...WHICH COULD MEAN DEATH FOR GOTHAM CITY! BUT, HOPEFULLY, A DESCRIPTION BY MRS. CONWAY MAY GIVE US A FRESH START!

IF WE HAVE TIME FOR IT! IT'S ALMOST ELEVEN O'CLOCK!

G'WAN, KIDS... BEAT IT! BAT-MAN AND ROBIN DON'T HAVE TIME FOR YOU!

16

TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE--BUT WILL THE DYNAMIC DUO PASS UP THE ONE CHILD WHO CAN LEAD THEM? THIS IS A PAGE BREAK--AND REMEMBER, IT'S LATER THAN YOU THINK!

It's the t'rantula

WITH BLOSSOMED BRAKE CHUTE

Get This Screaming Monster Dragster Ready to Jump All Competition

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It's hard to believe, even when you see it. But the monster is here.

Long, low and mean-looking slimy green body. Great big Ford engine with GMC huffer. Headers that fan out like a giant black spider's legs. Wide Goodyear slicks on rear, with louvered fenders which permit rubber dust, smoke and "stuff" to escape. Detailed interior.

Make the t'rantula with chute closed or open. Chute pack and four-panel blossomed chute both included in kit along with 1¼ inch molded tarantula, the giant spider and decals.

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Morton Grove, Illinois.

SHORT.. FAT ... RUDDY COMPLEXION! NOT MUCH TO GO ON, BUT...

HEY, **BATMAN,** WHAT CRIME YOU SOLVIN', HUH?

NONE, SON... IF WE DON'T LOCATE THE **MR. SMITH** WHO BOARDED HERE!

YA MEAN OLD **MEAN-MOUTH?** MAYBE YA BETTER ASK **SKINNAY...** HE KNEW HIM-- RE-AL GOOD!

OH? WHEN DID YOU SEE HIM LAST, **SKINNAY?**

WHEN HE GIMME THIS **BALL...** ABOUT TWO HOURS AGO! SURE A KOOKY CAT... GRABS MY BALL WHEN I BUST HIS WINDOW!

...AND WON'T GIVE IT BACK! THEN... HE DRIVES UP IN THIS SWANKY FOREIGN JOB--AND HANDS ME A **NEW** ONE!

THAT TIES IN WITH THE BROKEN WINDOW, **ROBIN!** ODD THAT HE GAVE THE KID A NEW BALL WHILE HE'S SO INVOLVED IN...

YOU SAID FOREIGN CAR, **SKINNAY...** WHAT MAKE? DID YOU GET THE LICENSE NUMBER?

YE-AH... ***FRASCATI*** TOURIN' SALON... '67... RED! LICENSE... G-30077--

THANKS! NOW WE'VE GOT A **SOLID** LEAD!

SKIN-NAY! YOU COME UP TO BED RIGHT AWAY! AND HOW MANY TIMES DID I TELL YOU ...NO TALKING TO ***STRANGERS?***

*SO **NEAR**... AND YET SO **FAR**! ARE THE **CRIME-CRUSADERS** OFF ON A **FALSE** LEAD?...*

CALLING ALL CARS! BE ON LOOKOUT FOR CAR OF FOLLOWING DESCRIPTION... IF SEEN, CONTACT **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN--IMMEDIATELY!**

MOMENTS LATER...

COULDN'T FORGET THAT ONE... I'M A BUG ON FOREIGN JOBS! SAW IT, ABOUT AN HOUR AGO... PARKED ACROSS FROM CITY HALL!

POLICE

BUT I'M NOT ON TICKETING-DUTY SO I DIDN'T...

WHERE ELSE WOULD A **MAD MIND** PARK IT...?

SECONDS LATER, ACROSS FROM CITY HALL...

GONE!

NOT NECESSARILY, BATMAN! LOOK--

ANOTHER DEAD END!

TOW-AWAY ZONE NO PARKING AT ANYTIME

I WONDER--HAS THE MAD BOMBER FINALLY MADE A MISTAKE!

WE'VE GOT ONE THIN HOUR LEFT!

AFTER A MAD DASH TO THE CITY TOW-AWAY LOT...

THAT'S IT, SIR! RELAYED YOUR CALL TO THE ARMY NUCLEAR-BOMB SQUAD! THEY'RE ON THEIR WAY!

PUT THROUGH A CHECK ON THE OWNER OF THAT CAR, OFFICER! IT'S POSSIBLE THE DRIVER WAS USING AN ALIAS!

AND FRANTIC MOMENTS LATER...

YOUR HUNCH WAS A HOT ONE, BATMAN! THIS CAR'S HOTTER'N--

YE-AH... I DIG, SGT. OWENS! MUST BE IN THE TRUNK! LET'S GET IT OPEN!

BUT, BATMAN--

IT MIGHT BE BOOBY-TRAPPED!

CLICK CLICK CLICK!

I THINK NOT! GIVE ME THAT CROWBAR!

YOU OPEN THAT TRUNK, SIR! I WANT TO BE TEN MILES AWAY! JUST GIVE US TIME TO--

TIME IS SOMETHING WE HAVE NOTHING OF, SERGEANT! BESIDES, THE MAD BOMBER WILL LET THIS THING BLOW UP--

IF WE DON'T PAY THE RANSOM!

CRUNCH!

WRUNK!

AND THEN... ALL FACE THE MOMENT OF TRUTH!

IT'S YOUR BABY NOW, SGT. OWENS! DEFUSE IT!

JUS' LIKE THAT?! THERE'S A NEW TAG ON IT... WHAT'S IT SAY?

WARNING
ANY ATTEMPT TO DEFUSE OR REMOVE THIS WEAPON WILL BE MET WITH INSTANT RETALIATION!

"INSTANT RETALIATION"? THEN EITHER IT IS BOOBY-TRAPPED, OR...

HE'S GOT A REMOTE CONTROL TO TRIGGER THIS OFF --WHENEVER HE PLEASES!

THEN... IF WE DON'T FIND HIM...

...WE HAVE NO WAY OF DISARMING IT! AND HE MUST HAVE THE REMOTE-DEVICE ON HIS PERSON!

YES, SIR-- BUT THE "OWNER" WILL DO YOU NO GOOD!

HAVE YOU TRACED THE OWNER?

OH-H... NO! THEN WE'VE COME TO THE END OF THE TRAIL!

AND CHANCES ARE HE'S A LONG... LONG WAY FROM GOTHAM CITY BY NOW! IF WE DON'T PAY UP... HE'D WANT TO BE WELL OUT OF RANGE!

BATMAN! BATMAN! THIS IS A HOT-LINE ALERT! JUST GOT A PHONE CALL FROM THE MAD BOMBER!

GAVE US NO TIME TO TRACE IT, BUT--

AND AT GOTHAM CITY HALL...

... HE DEMANDS WE PUT THE TEN MILLION DOLLARS ABOARD A SINGLE-SEATER PLANE... FLY IT OUT TO SEA... AWAIT RADIO-INSTRUCT!

WE'RE LOADING UP AN ARMORED TRUCK NOW... CAN'T TAKE ANY FURTHER RISKS! HE WANTS IT AIRBORNE BY 11:30 OR HE'LL--

FIFTEEN MINUTES MORE! GIVE ME THAT TIME TO NAB HIM, COMMISSIONER GORDON!

NOT A CHANCE! AS OF NOW... THE MANHUNT IS OFFICIALLY OVER!

BUT, COMMISSIONER-- YOU DON'T REALIZE-- SKIP IT!

ONE FAVOR, SIR... LET ROBIN AND ME GO ALONG FOR THE RIDE--IN THE ARMORED CAR!

GRANTED!

SO, FIVE MINUTES LATER...

WHAT DIDN'T COMMISSIONER GORDON REALIZE, BATMAN!

THAT WE HAVE NO GUARANTEE THAT OUR BEREFT BLACKMAILER WON'T BLOW UP GOTHAM CITY ...EVEN IF HE GETS THE RANSOM!

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK HE'D BE AT THE AIRPORT?

IF YOU WERE HIM, ROBIN-- WOULDN'T YOU WANT TO SEE THIS MONEY PUT ABOARD THE CONTACT PLANE?

AND AS THE MONEY-TRUCK ENTERS A DESERTED END OF THE FIELD...

SHORT... FAT... THAT'S HIM, ROBIN!

NOW, SOON AS WE TURN THE HANGAR CORNER...

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

AS THE LOADING STARTS...

CIRCLE AROUND THE BACK, ROBIN! I'LL TAKE THE SIDE! HE MUSTN'T SEE US...OR HE'LL PANIC AND RUN!

HANGAR 6

JUST AS THE PLANE TAXIES INTO POSITION FOR TAKE-OFF...

WHAT WAS THAT--?

KLANG!

KLANG!

ALERTED BY BATMAN'S UNFORTUNATE OIL-CAN FUMBLE, THE BOMBER SNATCHES A FIRE-FIGHTING FOAM-DISPENSER FROM THE WALL AND..

SPLUPCH!

IN A PANIC, THE TRAPPED TORMENTOR OF GOTHAM CITY TURNS AND...

YOU'LL NEVER TAKE ME!

...THEN BLINDLY RUNS OUT AS THE MONEY-JET RETURNS FOR A TAKE-OFF INTO THE WIND...

NEVER!

URGH... NO! RAN RIGHT INTO THE PATH OF--

DEAD OR NOT... GOT TO GET THAT *REMOTE-CONTROL!*

NOTHING...! NOTHING ON HIM THAT RESEMBLES A DEVICE!

HA... HA...

HAD EVERYTHING PLANNED ...TO THE LAST DETAIL! REMOTE BOMB-TRIGGER PLANTED IN... INNOCENT... *RUBBER BALL!* YOU'LL *NEVER* FIND... UHNN...

HE'S... DEAD!

WE'RE SUNK! HE WAS GOING TO DESTROY *GOTHAM CITY--* ANYWAY! AND WE HAVE NO WAY OF...

FINDING THAT BALL IN A CITY OF EIGHT MILLION? I THINK WE DO, *ROBIN!*

GIVE IT ALL SHE'S GOT, DRIVER! WE'VE GOT TO *CALL OFF A BALLGAME!*

SWEAT-FILLED MINUTES LATER...

BUT... WHY *HERE, BATMAN?*

BECAUSE, *ROBIN*... IT'S BEEN BUGGING ME WHY A *MAD BOMBER* WOULD GIVE A KID HE *HATED--*

...A *NEW BALL!* NOW I KNOW! IN TWISTED REVENGE HE WANTED THAT KID TO *BLOW UP GOTHAM CITY!*

W-WHA...?! WHAT DO YOU WANT...

YOUR BOY, *SKINNAY*... OR RATHER-- WHAT HE *HAS!*

HEY... WHA' CHA MEAN BUSTIN' IN HERE? YOU'LL WAKE SKINNAY!

IT'S A CHANCE WE'VE GOT TO TAKE-- OTHERWISE IT MIGHT MEAN A PERMANENT SLEEP FOR EVERYONE IN GOTHAM CITY!

NOW TO CUT THIS BALL OPEN-- FAST!

SNIP

A SELF-WINDING WATCH-TIMER... WIRED TO A MICRO-SIGNAL TRANS-MITTER!

DIABOLICAL... THE WINDER HAD TO BE KEPT IN MOTION FOR AT LEAST AN HOUR TO TRIGGER THE REMOTE-BOMB!

AND WHAT BET-TER WAY THAN A BOUNCING BALL?

NOW JUST ONE SNIP...

AND ALL OF GOTHAM CITY-- LIKE SKINNAY-- CAN CONTINUE TO SLEEP IN PEACE--

THE END

23

SUPER SIZE

1/20 SCALE MODEL CAR KITS

1969 AMX.. BIGGER PARTS, EASIER BUILDING, SUPER DETAIL! 3 SUPERSCALE BUILDING VERSIONS INCLUDING THE GREAT RACING AMX! HOLLOW TIRES... TILT-BACK SEAT.. BIG 390 ENGINE! THIS ONE YOU'VE GOT TO GET! 1/20 SCALE AMX ONLY FROM MPC!

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FACT FILE #1

TARANTULA appeared in Star-Spangled Comics from issue No. 1 (October, 1941) through issue No. 19 (April, 1943).

Although the adventures of Tarantula appeared in only nineteen stories, all of which were eight pages in length, he nevertheless remains one of the most fondly remembered costumed crime-fighters of the Golden Age of Comics. It is hard to explain exactly why Tarantula is so well remembered by the fans, because he certainly wasn't one of the major characters of the day. Perhaps it is because the readers recognized a potential in the character that was never allowed to reach fruition for a number of reasons, not the least of which was the Wartime paper shortage. But idle speculation is not what this article is supposed to be about. Rather than trying to guess what might have been, we're here to tell you what kind of comic strip character Tarantula was.

Tarantula's origin story, which appeared in Star-Spangled Comics No. 1 was written by Mort Weisinger (now editor of Superman), and the art was by Hal Sharpe, the artist who was to illustrate the majority of the Tarantula strips. The origin tale's opening scene finds gang-leader Ace-Deuce and his criminal cohorts in the process of holding up a premiere-night theatre crowd. As the crooks are busily engaged in robbing both the cash receipts and the customers, a weirdly costumed character, descending from the ceiling on a thin silken strand, swoops down upon the felons. After a short and furious battle, the costumed newcomer has all the criminals ensnared in silken webs he has created with the strange gun he carries at his sides. When the police arrive and start asking questions, the web-spinner rushes off without answering their queries, thereby leaving the police to wonder whether or not he is a crime-fighter, or merely a crook working for some rival criminal gang.

Once alone, the masked man dons the everyday garb of John Law, a writer of detective fiction. Returning home, he is met by his housekeeper, Olga, who excitedly shouts, "Mr. Law! You did it. The news came over the radio. 'Spider-Man', the announcer said, and, 'Tarantula' — the name you picked yourself!" Olga is the only other person to know that John Law is Tarantula.

After her initial outburst, Olga quiets down somewhat and asks if the mystery writer is finished playing games, and won't he get rid of that silly get-up now? In answer, John Law explains that he feels strongly that something must be done to stem the ever-growing crime wave, and, since he is always coming up with ingenius methods of crime-busting in his books anyway; why not put some of those ideas to actual use!! He further explains how he was inspired by observing his pet tarantula to design his equipment after it. (True, a tarantula is an offbeat kind of pet to keep, but then again, writers are an offbeat kind of people....And anyone who would set out to be a costumed do-gooder has just got to be a wee bit unusual to start with!!) The crime-writer created a web-gun that shoots a liquid silk which solidifies into a variable type of webbing once it is fired from the weapon. He can use the instrument to quickly travel from place to place by swinging on its silken strands, or to weave webs in which he can trap his opponents. He has also devised suction cup devices for his feet and gloves, which enable him to walk on walls and ceilings. Once these inventions were perfected, he set out on his web-spinning, wall-crawling career.

His reflection is interrupted, however, when a radio-newsflash announces that Ace-Deuce and his gang have managed to escape from police custody, threatening to pull an especially spectacular theft. The scene now switches to the hideout of Ace-Deuce, the next day, where the master criminal is plotting one last super-crime before leaving the city for good. The plan is to steal the proceeds of a War Relief Party that is being held on the sixtieth floor of a skyscraper, but they will need the services of someone who can stall the elevators and allow them a clear get-away trail. Ace orders one of his henchmen to get Rags O'Bannion to do the job, and that evening, the robbery gets under way. However, Rags O'Bannion turns out to be Tarantula, in disguise. Tarantula makes quick work of subduing the criminals and, following a wild roof-top battle, he manages to thwart Ace-Deuce's escape by autogiro (a forerunner of todays helicopters)!

That, in essence, was Tarantula's first excursion into crime-busting. Although there weren't very many more adventures in store for the spider-man, he did manage to combat and defeat an assortment of villains including The Crime Candle, The Blade, and The Fly, in his short but memorable career. And memorable is the word for Tarantula!!

A WEB-LINE HELPS TARANTULA LEAP MIGHTILY TOWARD THE CEILING---
FOUR AGAINST ONE.. AND THEY'RE SHOOTING..! THIS CALLS FOR ALTITUDE!
WHERE'D HE GO!
GUESS AGAIN, LITTLE MEN!
GUESS HE GOT SCARED AND BEAT IT!
LOOPING COILS OF SILK SPURT FROM THE MUZZLE OF THE WEB-GUN...
NO FAIR USIN' COBWEBS.. WHEN ALL WE'VE GOT TO FIGHT WITH IS BULLETS!
YOU JAIL-BIRDS HAVE PLAYED HOOKEY LONG ENOUGH!

LETTERS to the BATCAVE

Dear Editor: Batman 204 brought with it quite a surprise! I mean, of course, the surprising quality of that issue. When it was announced that Batman would be given to another artist and writer team, I was dismayed. Never will Batman achieve the pinnacle of greatness he was destined for, I thought. So I bought the August issue only out of sadistic curiosity to see how far Batman's comedown would be. I opened to the first page and was amazed;never did I think Irv Novick could illustrate so well. Joe Giella subdues Novick's scratchy inks; he is the perfect inker to compliment Irv's pencils!

Frank Robbins' writing talent was more than expected; in fact, "Operation: Blindfold" is more than I might expect from your ace, Gardner Fox! The reason was because Batman was once more returned to the element that he originated under – MYSTERY! Again,Batman became the detective with the cloak of secrecy around him. The past few years, he had digressed into a gosh-awful gadgetry super-hero,which was untrue to his original inception. But at last, the real Batman is back, thanks to Mr. Robbins! He filled his script with many interesting deductions by Batman, such as the one that proved the dead man blind. And he didn't resort to using a costumed villain, a "getaway" used by lesser writers. You know what I mean; they introduce a costumed villain, then the hero has a pow-zam battle with him, which leaves few pages for characterization and twists.

Yes, Batman 204 introduced a new era of Batman to all of comicdom that will (or should, I might say) become the best since the Batman of the forties. Thanks again for bringing back the Batman of old – the TRUE Batman – Fred Hembeck, Yaphank, N.Y.

***(One thing about our* Batmaniacs *– they play fair! When we give out with a* Batman *"bomb", their return-mail-bombardment to us is nerve-racking! But when an issue is good, their letter-avalance is heart-warming! The comments on* Batman *204 were practically all in the same vein – indicating our "New-Old Look" is not in vain! –* Editor)**

Dear Editor: Batman 204 depicted the Caped Crusader as I like to see him: a figure of the night, relying not on pseudo-scientific devices but rather on his detective ability ....and his fists!....under suspicion by the police, operating on his own....this is the kind of Batman I've been waiting for ever since the inception of the "New Look".

And to think that this long-awaited ideal Batman story came from the pen of the same person who was responsible for the recent two-issue Flash "Samuroids" fiasco! Frank Robbins supplied all the elements needed for the perfect Batman story: a night-time setting . . . plenty of action....a down-to-earth, realistic plot....a puzzling mystery....a minimum of puns....and, thank goodness, none of those absurd costumed villains prancing around! Even the narrative was written in that good old "pulp magazine" style so noticeable in the early Batman classics. It's all too seldom nowadays that we find captions to compare with...."Has it finally come to pass? Has the doughty defender of truth and justice met .... the unconquerable foe?" That's true "Golden Age," man!

Of course, your new art team of Irv Novick and Joe Giella played an integral part in contributing to the atmosphere of this story. They did a great job of realizing what was a most difficult script to do justice to, and their night scenes were nothing less than superb!

Perhaps....hopefully.... **Batman** 204 will be the beginning of another "New Look"....the one so many of us were anticipating four years ago. Please, don't disappoint us this time! – **Gordon Flagg, Jr., Atlanta, Ga.**

Dear Editor: Wonderful! I am, of course, referring to **Batman** 204, "Operation: Blindfold". I knew the issue would be a hit when I first saw the cover. It matched and surpassed my highest hopes.

Let's start our dissection with the cover. The very idea of **Batman** being mugged in a slummy area of **Gotham** arouses interest in the story instantly. But when you have it drawn in that marvelous style, you outdo yourselves. First, look at **Batman.** Having him be the only figure in natural colors is a good idea, since he, naturally, is the main figure. And that facial expression – pure fear! Beautiful! The over-sized moon, the dark green sky contrasted with the lighter shade of the ground, the absence of "sound", the overall darkness, and the bat-shadow on the fence, fading as it nears the ground, all combined to make this your best cover in a long time.

Now for the inside art. The new kind of splash page is an interesting idea. I like it. The art averaged to be great – **Novick and Giella are Batman's men!**

Story was great. An automatic aura of mystery was created since the action took place at night, for which **Batman** was made. The murder on the first page informed us that we weren't dealing with cheap stuff. Then we were immediately launched into the story by the mystery of the next page. We knew that the victim wasn't **Batman** . . . .but what, then? As the story develops, so do more touches of genius, like: a mad villain, deep plots and counterplots, human interest (Commissioner Gordon's reaction to the supposed death of the **World's Greatest Detective**), a mystery, and **Batman** and **Robin** up to their respective necks in trouble.

In summing up, let me say that, besides being an obvious classic, this issue really restored my faith in human nature. After some of the **bombs** you've been handing out lately, it is truly **refreshing** to read an issue such as this. But, it all goes to prove one tried and true fact: **DC is the greatest! – Frank Erwin, Toledo, Ohio**

Dear Editor: Having never really liked Bob Kane's artwork (except prior to the sixties), the only **Batman** adventures I read were in **Detective** when Infantino still took pencil and brush in hand. But now that Infantino has gone to that great, happy editorial ground on the top floor, I remained **Batman**-less for many months. Out of sheer curiosity, I picked up **Batman** 204 to witness the new team of Robbins and Novick. And well, I was more than slightly surprised at the results and must apologize for ever doubting the **DC Dynasty of Comics.**

To be honest, I was almost scared when I heard that Robbins would write for Batman. The comical slant used on The Flash did not seem to fit to Batman; nor would it ever. But again, I was pleased at the results. It's hard to criticize the first part of a two-part story, so I won't. Let's just say that there was enough intrigue, build-up of the plot and action to make me buy the next issue. And isn't that part of the purpose of a first episode in a continuing story? – Klaus Janson, Bridgeport, Conn.

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